

ARDISIA NIAMBIENSIS (MYRSINACEAE),
A NEW SPECIES OF *ARDISIA* SUBGENUS
ARDISIA FROM THE CHOCÓ FLORISTIC
PROVINCE OF COLOMBIA

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ABSTRACT

Documentation of the flora of the Natural Reserve Río Ñambí has resulted in the discovery of a heretofore undescribed species, *Ardisia niambiensis*. The species is described, illustrated and its salient morphological features are elucidated. *Ardisia niambiensis* is best placed in subgenus *Ardisia* because of its terminal, glandular-papillate, paniculate inflorescences with tripinnate branches, and the evenly divided, 5-lobed calyx, whose symmetric lobes have glandular-ciliolate margins. It is most closely related to *Ardisia premontana*, a taxon endemic to the eastern slopes of the Eastern Andean Cordillera of southern Ecuador and Peru.

RESUMEN

Al documentar la flora de la Reserva Natural Río Ñambí, se encontró una nueva especie, *Ardisia niambiensis*. Se describe, se ilustra y se discuten sus caracteres principales y sobresalientes. *Ardisia niambiensis* se ubica mejor dentro del subgénero *Ardisia* debido a sus panículas terminales y glandular-papilloosas con ramificación tripinuada, su cáliz simétricamente dividido con lóbulos simétricos y glandular-ciliolados a lo largo de los márgenes. La nueva especie es muy afín a *Ardisia premontana*, una especie endémica a la falda oriental de la Cordillera Oriental del Ecuador y Perú.

INTRODUCTION

The pantropical genus *Ardisia* Swartz contains approximately 400–500 species (Chen Cheih & Pipoly 1996) with centers of high species diversity in Malesia and the Chocó Floristic Province from Panama through Colombia to Ecuador (Pipoly 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996). Within the Neotropics, approximately 300 species have been described, the majority

from Mesoamerica. There are relatively few South American taxa, perhaps not passing 40 total. During the course of an analysis of the vegetation of the Río Nambí Natural Reserve, located in western portion of Nariño corresponding to the Chocó Floristic Province, a new species of *Ardisia* was discovered, which is described herewith.

***Ardisia niambiensis* Pipoly & Cogollo, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).** TYPE: COLOMBIA.

NARIÑO: Mpio. Barbacoas; Corregimientos Ortiz y Zamora; Vereda El Barro; Reserva Natural Río Nambí, ca. 5 dm al W de Altaquer, Faldas Occidentales de la Cordillera Occidental, 01° 15'N, 78° 08'W, 1,250–1,350 m, 9 Sep 1997 (stam. Fl), J. Pipoly, A. Cogollo, M. López & M. Rodríguez 21572 (HOLOTYPE: PSO; ISOTYPES: BRIT, COL, FMB, GH, HUA, JAUM, K, MO, NY, TULV).

Ob inflorescentiam terminalem tripinnatipaniculatam, calycem aequaliter divisum, necnon lobos calycinos simetricos glandulari-ciliolaribusque subgeneri *Ardisiae* pertinet. Propter laminas ad apice breviacuminatas, rhachides inflorescentia angulatos, margines sepalinos hyalinos carinatos subintegros erososque *A. premontano* valde arcte affinis, sed ab ea ramulis glabris (non furfuraceo-lepidotis), laminis coriaceis (non chartaceis), subter glabris dense punctatis punctato-lineatisque (nec furfuraceo-lepidotis), petiolis 7–10 (non 15–25) mm longis, floribus pedicellatis (non sessilis), denique lobis calycinis deltatis vel late triangularibus (non ovatis) 2–2.2 (nec 1–1.2) mm longis statim distinguitur.

Tree to 10 m × 15 cm DBH. *Branchlets* terete, 4–8 mm glabrous. *Leaves* alternate; blades coriaceous, oblanceolate to obovate, (14.1–)19–25.4 cm long, (6.8–)7.5–9.4 cm wide, apically abruptly acuminate, the acumen 5–8 mm long, basally acute, decurrent to petiole base, midrib canaliculate and prominently raised above, prominently raised and densely black punctate-lineate below, the secondary veins numerous, 39–47 pairs, prominulous above and below, drying dark above, pallid and densely perpuncticulose below, the punctations in the form of short lines, the margin slightly inrolled except revolute basally; petioles marginate to base, 7–10 mm long, glabrous. *Inflorescence* terminal, pyramidal, tripinnately paniculate, 12.8–22.5 cm long, 11.5–33 cm wide, peduncle 1–2.5 cm long, the rachis prominently angulate, the secondary branches with smaller panicular units 12–16 cm long, 6–10 cm wide, the ultimate branches racemose, moderately rufous glandular-granulose and prominently and densely black punctate-lineate; floral bracts caducous, unknown; pedicels cylindrical, (1.0–)1.5–2.5(–3.0) mm long. *Flowers* unknown, but fruiting calyx 3–3.5 mm long, rufous glandular papillate and darkened at junction of lobe and tube, the lobes deltate to widely triangular, 2–2.2 mm long, 2.2–2.5 mm wide, apex acute to a minutely acuminate apex, minutely rufous-lepidote and carinate medially without, prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, the margin hyaline, somewhat erose and sparsely glandular-ciliolate apically. *Fruit* globose, 5–8(–10) mm long and wide when dried; when fresh, exocarp fleshy, bitter tasting.

Distribution.—Known only from Reserva Natural Río Nambí, Nariño, Colombia, at 1,250–1,350 m elevation.

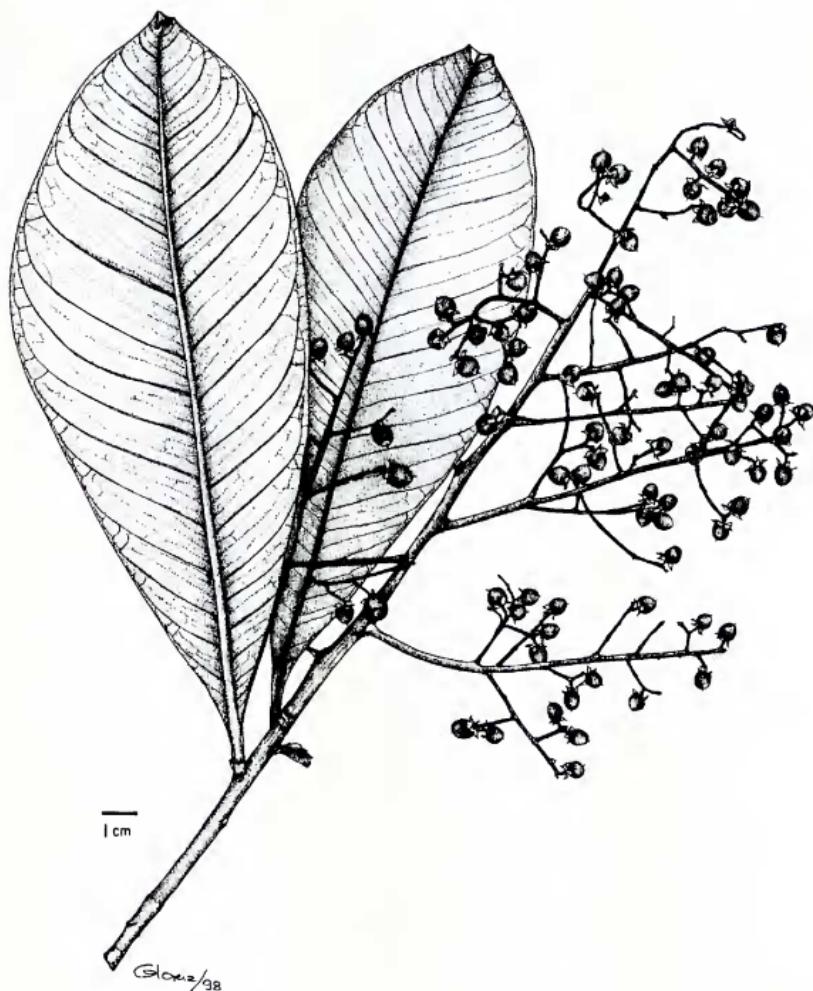


FIG. 1. *Ardisia niambiensis* Pipoly, showing the pyramidal tripinnate inflorescence, densely and prominently black punctate leaf surfaces, short petioles marginate to base, and pedicellate flowers. Drawn from the holotype.

Ecology.—*Ardisia niambiensis* occurs in premontane pluvial forest, receiving approximately 7,800 to 8,200 mm rain per year. The species occurs in relatively low densities, in at the forest margin on ridgetops.

Etymology.—*Ardisia niambiensis* is named phonetically for the Reserva Natural Río Nambí, a private, nonprofit, integrated conservation and development area in the state of Nariño, Colombia, operated by FELCA, the Ecological Foundation of the Hummingbirds of Altaquer (Fundación Ecológica de los Colibrís de Altaquer).

PARATYPE. COLOMBIA, Nariño: Mpio. Barbacoas; Corregimientos Ortíz Zamora; Vereda El Barro, Reserva Natural Río Nambí, ca. 5 km al W de Altaquer, Faldas Occidentales de la Cordillera Occidental, 01° 15' N, 78° 08' W; 1,350–1,450 m, 3 Sep 1997 (ster.), J. Pipoly, A. Cogollo, M. López & M. Rodríguez 21227 (BRIT, FMB, JAUM, PSO).

On account of the shortly acuminate leaf apices, angulate inflorescence rachises, carinate sepals with hyaline and subentire to erose margins, *Ardisia niambiensis* is most closely related to *Ardisia premontana* Pipoly. It is separated from *A. premontana* by its glabrous (not furfuraceous-lepidote) branchlets, the coriaceous (not chartaceous) leaf blades that are densely black punctate and punctate lineate (and not furfuraceous-lepidote) below, petioles 7–10 (not 15–25) mm long, pedicellate (not sessile) flowers and deltate or widely triangular (not ovate) sepals that are 2.0–2.2 (and not 1.0–1.2) mm long.

Ardisia subgenus *Ardisia*, to which *A. niambiensis* belongs, is defined by the well-developed but early caducous floral and inflorescence bracts, racemose or rarely spicate branchlets of the inflorescence, the anthers dehiscing by subapical pores opening into wide longitudinal slits, and symmetric sepals. Within that subgenus, the other species known from the Chocó include *A. colombiana* Lundell, *A. granatensis* Mez, *A. opaca* Lundell, *A. valida* Mez (= *A. perinsignis* Lundell syn. nov.), *A. monsalveae* Pipoly, and *A. cabrerae* Pipoly (Forero & Gentry 1990; Pipoly 1991, 1995). Among these species, the only ones with inflorescence shape, pedicellate flowers and sepals similar to those of *Ardisia niambiensis* are *A. cabrerae* and *A. monsalveae*. However, the three species may be easily separated by the following key:

1. Calyx 2.4–2.9 mm long, apically obtuse, the margins glabrous, entire to subentire.
 2. Leaf blades coriaceous, elliptic; sepals 3.4–3.5 mm wide, glabrous *A. cabrerae*
 2. Leaf blades chartaceous, widely oblanceolate to obovate; sepals 0.5–0.6 mm wide, densely and minutely rufo-puberulent *A. monsalveae*
1. Calyx 3–3.5 mm long, apically acute to a minutely acuminate apex, minutely rufous-lepidote and carinate, the margin sparsely ciliolate *A. niambiensis*

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